We claim:

1. An improved process for the preparation of crystalline Form-A of the sodium salt of 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl] sulfinyl] -1H-benzimidazole (omeprazole sodium), which comprises;

i) dissolution of omeprazole in an aqueous base, Na^+B^- where in Na denotes sodium and B denotes hydroxide or alkoxide, Ion exchangers, resins which releases sodium cation, at room temperature, in an appropiate solvent consisting of C3-C7 branched or chained hydrocarbons, C2-C7 chained or branched ethers, cyclic ethers, lower fatty acid esters, aliphatic ketone solvents, halogenated hydrocorbon solvents or nitrile solvents with optionally containing water;

ii) neutralising the reaction mixture of step(i) using an appropriate anti-solvent in which product is poorly soluble form the same group of solvents as mentioned in step (i).

iii) stirring the reaction mixture of step (ii) for 0-24 hrs at room temperature.

iv) cooling the reaction mixture of step (iii) till the solid mass crystallizes.

v) filtering the isolated solid of step (iv) by conventional techniques, accompanied by washing with a solvent as mentioned in step (i).

vi) drying the isolated compound of step(v) at 30-70 ° C preferably at a temperature of 50-60 ° C to afford Form-A of omeprazole sodium.

2. A process according to claim 1 of step (i) wherein preferable solvents are tetrahydrofuran, acetonitrile, ethyl acetate, acetone or dichloromethane.

3. A process according to claim 1 of step (i) where in preferable anti solvents are ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, methyl isobutyl ketone or tertiary butyl acetate.

4. The crystalline Form-C of sodium salt of 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl] sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (omeprazole sodium).

5. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium of claim 4 having X-ray powder diffraction pattern with peaks around 6.19,10.15,11.06,11.94,12.84,13.83, 18.73, 19.64, 21.56, 22.31, 25.58 and 31.52 two-theta degrees.

6. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium according to claim 4, which provides X-ray diffraction pattern substantially in accordance with Figure (1).

7. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium according to claim 4 having a differential scanning colorimetry thermogram, which exhibits a significant endo peak at around 162 ° C and exo peaks at around 190 ° C and 208 ° C.

8. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium according to claim 7 having a Differential Scanning Colorimetry thermogram substantially in accordance with Figure (4).

9. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium according to claim 4 having an identified characteristic bands at having 3517, 3352 and 3162 cm^{-1} in infrared spectrum.

10. The crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium according to claim 4 having an Infrared spectrum substantially in accordance with Figure (5).

11. A process for preparing crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium, which comprises;

i) dissolution of omeprazole in aqueous base ,$Na^{+}B^{-}$, where in Na denotes sodium and B denotes hydroxide or alkoxide, ion exchangers, resins which releases sodium cation, at room temperature, in an appropriate solvent consisting of C3-C7 branched or chained hydrocarbons, C2-C7 branched or chained ethers, cyclic

ethers, lower acid esters, aliphatic ketones, halogenated hydrocarbon solvents and acetonitrile with optionally containing water; neutralisation the reaction mixture of step (i) using an appropriate anti solvent in which Product is poorly soluble Form the same group of solvents as mentioned in step(i);

ii) optionally neutralising the reaction mixture of step (i) using an appropriate anti solvent in which product is poorly soluble from the same group of solvents as mentioned in step (i).

iii) gently stirring the reaction mixture of step (ii) for 0-24 hours preferably for 10-18 hours at 25-35 ° C;

iv) optionally cooling the reaction mixture of step (iii) till the solid mass crystallizes;

v) filtering the isolated solid of step (iv) by conventional techniques, accompanied by washing with a solvent as mentioned in step (i).

vi) drying the isolated compound of step (v) at 30-70 ° C preferably at a temperature of 50-60 ° C to afford novel crystalline Form-C of omeprazole sodium.

12. The process according to step (i) of claim 11, wherein the preferable solvents are tetrahydrofuran and acetone.

13. A process according to claim 11 of step (i) where in preferable anti solvent is ethyl acetate.

14. The crystalline Form-D of sodium salt of 5-methoxy-2-[[(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl] sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole (omeprazole sodium).

15. The crystalline Form-D of omeprazole sodium of claim 14 having characteristic peak at 11.896 two-theta degrees.

16. The crystalline Form-D of omeprazole sodium according to claim 14, which provides X-ray diffraction pattern substantially in accordance with Figure (6).

17. A process for preparing crystalline Form-D of omeprazole sodium, which comprises;

vii) dissolution of omeprazole in aqueous base ,$Na^{+}B^{-}$, where in Na denotes sodium and B denotes hydroxide or alkoxide, ion exchangers, resins which releases sodium cation, at room temperature in an appropriate solvent such as acetonitrile with optionally containing water;

viii) neutralising the reaction mixture of step (i) using an appropriate anti solvent which consists of halogenated hydrocarbon solvents such as dichloromethane in which product is poorly soluble;

ix) gently stirring the reaction mixture of step (ii) for 0-10 hours preferably for 3-6 hours at a temperature of 25-35 ° C;

x) optionally cooling the reaction mixture of step (iii) till the solid mass crystallizes;

xi) filtering the isolated solid of step (iv) by conventional techniques, accompanied by washing with a solvent as mentioned in step (i).

xii) drying the isolated compound of step (v) at a temperature of 30-70 ° C preferably at a temperature of 50-60 ° C to afford novel crystalline Form-D of omeprazole sodium.

18. The process according to step (i) of claim 17, wherein the preferable solvent is acetonitrile.

19. The process according to step (i) of claim 17, wherein the preferable anti solvent is dichloromethane.